

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE DOMINION.

Victor Hugo, it would appear, was not altogether right when he described in his "L'Homme Qui Rit" the "comparchicos" of the seventeenth century as a race "oublée au dix-huitième (siècle), ignorée aujourd'hui." From the records of the English police it is evident that if the descendants of the original child-mutilators do not exist, the business—or one very like it—is still in full operation. In London a place has recently been unearthed where the manufacture of cripples was regularly carried on. "Children, and even babes," says the journal from which we draw our information, "were taken there to have their limbs twisted out of shape, their features burned and distorted, their eyes put out, or to be so mangled or maimed in other ways as to attract attention and sympathy from the alms-giving public. The majority of these children were orphans, or were taken—"adopted"—from almshouses or very poor families, while others were undoubtedly stolen. The scale of prices for maiming varied according to age, the cost of twisting the legs of a babe under a year old out of shape being only seven dollars, a variety of other injuries being thrown in for ten dollars. Incurable ulcers and sores were manufactured for from one to five dollars and so on."

Two very good suggestions—both relating to the same object, the welfare of the workingman—have recently been made in opposite quarters of the globe. In New York a mechanic writes to one of the daily papers suggesting the formation throughout the country of Married Workingmen's Associations for the purpose of protecting men of that class from the young men of the Unions. He insists, and with good reason, that among the latter class are some of the most useless workmen, men who have no responsibilities, care little for hard, steady work. These are the men who are at the bottom of all the strikes, and men who have the most at stake are compelled to follow them even in cases where a stoppage of work means extreme privation and suffering. The idea is a good one and deserves the attention of all working-men with responsibilities. Should it be carried out provision might be made for the admission to such societies of young men supporting aged or infirm parents and relatives. The second proposal comes from Belgium, and emanates with the employers, who, in some cases, have already put it into practice. Knowing full well the difficulty there is in securing cheap and comfortable accommodations in a great city, they have organized homes for their employees, where, for thirty-five cents a day, each person is furnished with lodging and allowed four meals a day—one of meat—with washing done free. Such suggestions as these should only need to be made to secure immediate adoption.

The New York *Herald* recently published a letter from one of its European correspondents in which some remarks were made exceedingly disparaging to the good breeding of the German Kaiser. Gen. Sherman and Lieut. Grant in the course of their peregrinations on the Continent spent some days at Berlin. While there it appears that no aide-de-camp was placed at their disposal, and they were left to "do" the city as best they could. This was bad enough, but the worst was yet to come. No official invitation was tendered to the distinguished visitors to present themselves at the Imperial Palace, and on the occasion of a grand review they merely received an intimation that the Emperor would be happy to see them present. As no offer of an escort to the ground was made the self-respect of the two American citizens compelled them to take no notice of the invitation. A few days after they happened to meet Count von Moltke at a public dinner, and here they were again insulted in a most gross manner. Sherman got into conversation with von Moltke—or rather tried to get into conversation—but the German general was not in a mood for talking. His answers were so brief and blunt that Sherman's ire was roused, and he is now breathing murmured threats as to the course the United States would take in the event of a war between Russia and Germany. Now this is all very dreadful. German boorishness could not go further. Still one cannot help wondering what was the tenor of von Moltke's thoughts during that memorable dinner—whether, for instance, they had any relation to the thousands of Remington rifles shipped by the United States to France during the war.

People have got so heartily sick of the stories of Joaquin Miller, his red shirt, and his uncouthness in "Society," that any new fable, however absurd, in relation to the Poet of the Sierras will be rather a relief than otherwise. If the Buffalo *Advertiser* is to be believed, Miller has been at Niagara Falls, where he has been doing his best to attract attention—and, to tell the truth, not wholly without success. His mode of making himself remarkable certainly possesses the merit of originality. "Early the present week," says the journal mentioned, "he hired a fleet pony, arrayed himself in full Mexican dress, with the characteristic sombrero hat. Furnished with a six hundred dollar saddle, ornamented with Mexican dollars, the tapidarus and catenas richly fretted with gold and silver, he started out with break-neck pace for a tour of the country and different objects of interest around the Falls." The *Advertiser* then goes on to inform us, rather unnecessarily, perhaps, that he excited "wherever he went, considerable curiosity as to who he was and where he came from; everybody was asking 'who is he?' Some said he was Buffalo Bill, and some said he wasn't, and he was finally set down as his partner the famous Texas Jack, who had just arrived to take charge of the Great Buffalo Hunt that did not come off." It seems surprising, under the circumstances, that no one, in answer to so many inquiries, suggested the possibility of the eccentric stranger turning out to be an escaped lunatic. After describing the sensation caused by Miller's vagaries, the *Advertiser* launches out into a puff of its favourite, concluding with the following lovely stanza from his Ode to Niagara:

O, pure as a tear and as strong as the sea,
Yet, as tender to me as the wail of the doves,
I had rather sit sad and alone by thee,
Than to go and be glad with a legion of loves.

What a pretty picture it would make; the Poet "sitting sad and alone" by the Falls, on his "six hundred dollar saddle, ornamented with Mexican dollars, the tapidarus and catenas richly fretted with gold and silver."

The writs for the County of Carleton were issued on Thursday week. The nomination is fixed for Monday and the polling for August 5.

A disastrous fire occurred on the 18th at Pictou, N. S. Some fifteen buildings were destroyed, entailing a loss of about \$150,000, very little of which is covered by insurance.

The ceremony of turning the first sod of the North Shore Railway took place at Quebec on Thursday week. The Archbishop of Quebec pronounced the benediction, and Madame Cauchon, assisted by M. Cauchon, dug the first sod. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Cauchon, Chauveau, Rheaume, Coté, Lorranger, Rhodes, and others. About 5,000 people were present.

The Intercolonial Railway section between Amherst and River Phillip was traversed for the first time by first-class cars, containing Hon. E. B. Chandler, and a number of gentlemen, on Monday afternoon. The construction is now proceeding so satisfactorily as to indicate the opening of the whole route between Truro and Amherst by the first of October.

A fearful affair occurred on the 16th inst. at Quebec. The captain of the barque "Rivoli," a French Canadian named Pelletier, came ashore with two men, and on landing the men were accosted by two crimps, who sought to entice them to desert. An altercation ensued, when the crimps made as if to attack the Captain, who seized a carpenter's axe which lay near, and dealt a blow to one of his assailants, James Dillon, opening his side with a fearful gash. The unfortunate man fell, and died shortly afterwards in the Police Station. Pelletier was arrested, and the police, with much difficulty, prevented him from being lynched by the mob. At the inquest a verdict of manslaughter was returned.

UNITED STATES.

Much annoyance is said to exist at Washington over Catcazy's defence.

"Harry Bassett" beat "Longfellow" for the Saratoga Cup on the 16th in a race of two and a quarter miles by one length. Time 3.59.

It is said that President Grant has announced his intention of visiting the Canadian border. He will go down the St. Lawrence, visit the Thousand Islands and other places of interest along the border.

A despatch from Denver (Col.) says that a remarkable water-spout recently occurred on the Central City stage road, four miles above Golden City. The torrent of water struck a carriage containing four persons, two of whom were wounded.

The first regular meeting of the new Erie directors was held on the 16th inst., when Committees were appointed. It is announced that the managers intend changing the gauge of the road. This they will do by laying down a third rail of a gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches, leaving the broad gauge until the present rolling stock of the Company is worn out; but all the new cars and locomotives that are procured, will be of the narrow gauge.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Grenadier Band arrived at Liverpool at the latter end of last week.

Private Havana advices represent that the revolution is beginning to show fresh indications of strength.

The Fiji Islands are said to be in a state of incipient revolution, against which the Government is powerless.

The parties concerned in the burning of Justice Keogh in effigy, have been committed for trial at the Fermanagh assizes.

Another missionary to the South Sea Island has been murdered by the natives. The name of the victim is Gordon.

Trade is stagnant in Paris. Thousands of shops are closed for rent, and a monetary crisis reigns. Many of Thiers' old friends are deserting him.

The South American mail brings news of a threatened outbreak in Peru, where the oppression of the Government has lashed the inhabitants into intense indignation.

A despatch from New South Wales dated the 16th says that the members of the ministry have been re-elected, and expect to meet in Parliament with a working majority.

Lord Napier, who succeeded the late Earl Mayo as Governor of India, *pro tem*, has been created a peer of the United Kingdom under the title of Baron Etrick.

On Saturday last the Prince of Wales went on board the American fleet off Southampton, but his visit was entirely private. His Royal Highness declined an invitation to visit Southampton or to receive deputations from the town.

In the House of Commons the other night Mr. Forster stated that the disease known as rinderpest had appeared among the cattle on board a vessel from Odessa, bound to England, and that the Council had deemed it prudent to issue an order excluding Russian cattle from British ports.

An influential meeting of Roman Catholics was held in London on Tuesday week, the Duke of Norfolk presiding. Resolutions were adopted protesting against the action of the Italian Government towards the Papal authorities, and condemning the recent law passed by the German Parliament proscribing the Jesuits.

The Geneva Arbitration Commission held several meetings during the last few days. It is stated that the direct claims of the United States have been cut down to eight millions of dollars. The claims for the damages caused by the vessels "Boston," "Sallie," "Jeff Davis," "Joy" and "Music," have been dismissed by the arbitrators. The demurrer of Great Britain concerning the other vessels is overruled. In the case of the "Florida" it is believed \$2,600,000 damages have been awarded.

Advices from St. Petersburg state that the cholera epidemic is gradually making way from the eastern provinces of Russia, and gaining a fast hold in the central portions of the empire. Moscow is now suffering from it, and it has assumed a most

malignant power. The proportion of deaths to recoveries is placed at eight to one. This fatality has created a panic among the inhabitants, and thousands of the better classes are fleeing.

An attempt was made at midnight (18th-19th inst.) to assassinate the King and Queen of Spain while driving home from the Palace Garden. Their carriage was fired upon but neither of them were hurt. One of the assassins was shot by an attendant. When the news of the attempt became known the excitement of the people was intense. Three of the would-be assassins and twenty-seven alleged accomplices have been arrested, and it was with difficulty that they were saved from being lynched by the crowd. The King and Queen are receiving congratulatory addresses from all portions of the country, expressing the joy of their subjects at their escape from the bullets of the assassins, and declaring the loyalty and attachment of the people. Yesterday evening their majesties drove through the city in an open carriage. Their progress was an immense ovation. They were greeted at every point by enthusiastic cheers. The examination of the two assassins who were captured develops the fact that the attack was part of an organized conspiracy, extensive in its ramifications, and provided with ample funds.

CHESS.

Solutions to problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

The following is one of several hard-fought games between an English amateur of some celebrity, who lately visited the Montreal Chess Club, and a member.

KING'S BISHOP'S OPENING.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| White. —(Visitor.) | Black. —(Mr. C.) |
| 1. P. to K. 4th | P. to K. 4th |
| 2. B. to B. 4th | K. Kt. to B. 3rd |
| 3. Q. Kt. to B. 3rd | B. to B. 4th |
| 4. K. Kt. to B. 3rd | P. to Q. 3rd |
| 5. P. to K. R. 3rd | Q. Kt. to B. 3rd |
| 6. P. to Q. 3rd | P. to K. R. 3rd (a) |
| 7. P. to Q. R. 3rd | P. to Q. R. 4th |
| 8. B. to Q. R. 2nd | B. to K. 3rd |
| 9. Kt. to Q. 5th | B. takes Kt. |
| 10. P. takes B. | Kt. to K. 2nd |
| 11. P. to Q. B. 4th | Q. Kt. to K. B. 4th |
| 12. B. to Q. Kt. sq. | Q. Kt. to Q. 5th |
| 13. B. to K. 3rd | Kt. takes Kt. ch. |
| 14. Q. takes Kt. | B. takes B. |
| 15. P. takes B. | Castles. |
| 16. Q. to K. B. 5th | Q. to Q. 2nd |
| 17. Q. to K. B. 2nd | Kt. to R. 2nd |
| 18. Q. to R. 4th | P. to K. B. 4th |
| 19. Q. to R. 5th | Q. to K. B. 2nd |
| 20. Q. to R. 4th | Kt. to Kt. 4th |
| 21. B. to Q. B. 2nd | P. to Q. B. 3rd |
| 22. P. takes P. | P. takes P. |
| 23. Castles. [Q. R.] (b) | P. to Q. R. 5th (c) |
| 24. K. R. to B. sq. | K. R. to Q. Kt. sq. |
| 25. P. to K. Kt. 4th | Q. to Q. Kt. 2nd |
| 26. P. takes P. (d) | Q. takes P. ch. |
| 27. K. to Q. 2nd | R. to Kt. 6th (e) |
| 28. R. to Q. B. sq. (f) | Q. to B. 6th, ch. |
| 29. K. to Q. sq. | R. takes P. |
| 30. P. to B. 6th | R. to R. 8th |
| 31. K. to K. 2nd | R. takes R. |
| 32. R. takes R. | P. to R. 6th |
| 33. P. takes P. | P. to R. 7th |
| 34. Q. takes P. | P. Queens. (g) |
| 35. Q. to R. 8th, ch. | K. to B. 2nd |
| 36. Q. to R. 5th, ch. | K. to Kt. sq. |
| 37. Q. to R. 8th, ch. | K. to B. 2nd, |
| 38. Q. to R. 5th, ch. | |

And the game was drawn.

(a) The game is opened with great caution, and has now resolved itself into the regular Ginoco Piano.

(b) Hazardous, because of the open Knight's file on the opposite side.

(c) Cramping the adversary considerably.

(d) White appears to have underrated the assault to which he is now subjected.

(e) This should have been the winning move, but, by subsequent carelessness, Black loses his advantage, and allowed his opponent to draw.

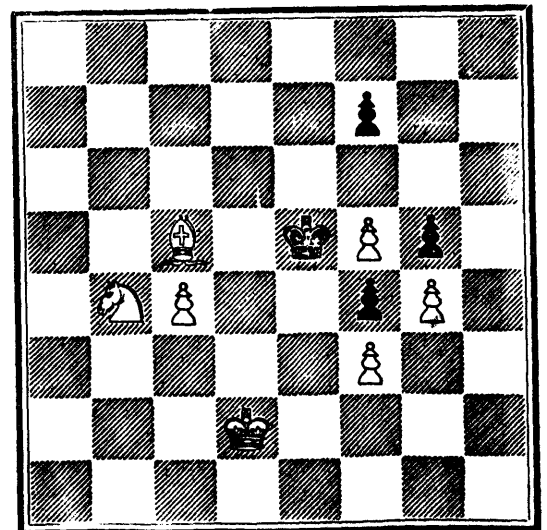
(f) The best reply, apparently.

(g) The only exceptional move on Black's part throughout; Kt. to B. 2nd instead wins easily.

PROBLEM No. 56

By J. W.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 56.

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. Q. to K. R. sq. ch. | K. to B. 4th (best.) |
| 2. Q. to Q. B. sq. | K. to Q. 5th (A) |
| 3. Q. to K. Kt. sq. ch. | K. to B. 6th (best.) |
| 4. Q. to K. 3rd, ch. | K. moves. |
| 5. Q. to Q. R. 3rd, mate. | |
- (A)
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 2. Kt. to Kt. 3rd, ch. | P. to B. 6th |
| 4. Q. to K. 3rd, ch. | K. to Q. 4th |
| 5. Q. to Q. R. 3rd, mate. | K. moves. |